



MINUTES

COUNCIL

Date 27.10.20
Location Virtual
Time 7pm

Chair Yannick Gloster
Secretary Cian Walsh
Additional minutes by
Simon Evans, Administrative Officer

1. Approval of Minutes

Miontuairscí

The minutes were approved

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Pointí ag teacht ón gcruinniú deireanach

No matters arising.

3. Items for Noting

Míreanna le tabhairt faoi deara

All items were taken as noted with no questions.

Procedural Motion A - Proposed by Leah Keogh (Welfare Equality Officer), seconded by Daniel O'Reilly, STEM Convener

Proposed that Motions B & C were moved forward to be discussed now.

The procedural motion passed.

4. Suspended Orders

A. Motion B - Motion to Amend the TOR of the Welfare Committee

Leah Keogh, Welfare & Equality Officer Proposed the motion. The Welfare Committee has historically been operating unconstitutionally by electing members at an AGM, which was stopped this year. This left the W&E Officer with no committee for the start of this year. Wants an committee for rest of year appointed in a manner more like the AGM, especially for big campaign weeks like Mental Health Week.

Eoin Hand, President Spoke in favour of the motion. The W&E Officer is very stressed without the support of a committee, which is necessary for her to be able to do her job properly.

Vote opened. The motion passed.

B. Motion C - Motion on the Welfare & Equality Committee

Continuation of previous discussion around Welfare Committee. *Vote opened. The motion passed.*

5. Elections

dToghcháin

A. Welfare & Equality Committee

OCM

Sophie Watson was nominated by Leah Keogh (Welfare & Equality Officer), seconded by Megan O'Connor (Education Officer)

Dylan Krug was nominated by Leah Keogh (Welfare & Equality Officer), seconded by Megan O'Connor (Education Officer)

Eleanor Starr was nominated by Leah Keogh (Welfare & Equality Officer), seconded by Megan O'Connor (Education Officer)

Toni Mockler was nominated by Tídgh Maguire (Off Campus Officer), seconded by Megan O'Connor (Education Officer)

Lia Spencer was nominated by Tídgh Maguire (Off Campus Officer), seconded by Megan O'Connor (Education Officer)

Allana Francis was nominated by Tídgh Maguire (Off Campus Officer), seconded by Megan O'Connor (Education Officer)

Caroline Costello was nominated by Tídgh Maguire (Off Campus Officer), seconded by Megan O'Connor (Education Officer)

Josh Porter was nominated by Tídgh Maguire (Off Campus Officer), seconded by Megan O'Connor (Education Officer)

Clio Ryan was nominated by Tídgh Maguire (Off Campus Officer), seconded by Megan O'Connor (Education Officer)

Mary Linzel was nominated by Tídgh Maguire (Off Campus Officer), seconded by Megan O'Connor (Education Officer)

Mia Brzakovic was nominated by Tídgh Maguire (Off Campus Officer), seconded by Megan O'Connor (Education Officer)

Alena Gerasimva was nominated by Tídgh Maguire (Off Campus Officer), seconded by Megan O'Connor (Education Officer)

Ben Marry was nominated by Tídgh Maguire (Off Campus Officer), seconded by Megan O'Connor (Education Officer)

Dylan Krug, Sophie Watson and Ben Marry were elected.

B. Communications Committee

2 Ordinary Committee Members

No nominees.

C. Education Committee

1 Ordinary Representative from JF, SF, JS, SS

No nominees.

D. Electoral Commission

2 Biennial Members

No nominees.

1 Annual Member

Blaithín Headly was nominated by Megan O'Connor (Education Officer), seconded by Jacqui Whelan, AHSS Convener)

Blaithín Headly was deemed elected without contest.

6. Sabbatical Officer Reports

Tuairiscí na n-Oifigeach

- **President** Eoin Hand

Hopes all is well and they everyone had a good bank holiday weekend. Took report as read. Tackled student spaces issue 7 around campus including 2 marquees. Lot of collaboration with different parts of college to achieve this. Amenities in spaces include coffee, hot water and microwaves.

In touch with health centre and HIV Ireland regarding HIV Rapid Testing to ensure this is available for students.

Along with W&E Officer is in touch with MAI re the Vampire Cup - competition to donate blood across universities.

Compost bins - working with Environmental Officer and College Sustainability Officer to place compost bins in residential areas on campus and Student Breakout Spaces, along with information poster. 8 Sustainability Champions to be set up on campus, talking with JCR to do the same in Halls - if trial goes well will be rolled out to whole campus.

Refugee Week - went well. 9 speakers across 3 panels, and representatives from 400 Welcomes campaign. Info on social media.

Rent Refunds - College cognisant of rent refunds. Working with Provost and Accommodation Officer to negotiate down refund period penalty from 8 weeks to 4 weeks. Ongoing issue, hoping on improvements.

Oisín Brann, BESS Rep Likely that further concessions will be obtained from college?

Eoin Hand Hard to say, ongoing conversation. University unlikely to concede further.

- **Education** Megan O'Connor

Took report as read. Encouraged to email for further questions. Last few months taken up by sitting on working groups as response to COVID-19 changes. Many outstanding workload issues remain, and Open Modules issue remains too.

Fit2Sit campaign went well for supplemental exams, will be running for other exams too.

Along with President engaging with Registrar re graduations for SS students. Working with USI on Education4All campaign, going well enough, surprised by Government payment scheme. Ongoing issue.

Class Rep Elections - all run online. Big transition, thanked for patience with issues around timing and data input. Will be providing report.

Workin with SLD on Learn to Learn Online accessibility. Encouraged to check it out.

INsTEP participation in coming weeks.

Noted immense work done by Chairs of EC and OC and the commissions themselves as well as faculty conveners in recent weeks.

Morgan Hildula does the 250 euro reimbursement apply to all students, including non eu? (sic)

Megan O'Connor No, to the best of her knowledge, just EU students, waiting on clarification. Talks on paying through student bank accounts.

Aisling Burns, SF Midwifery Class Rep If we want to join the education committee should we contact megan (sic)

Megan O'Connor Motion arising later outlining details on that.

Magdalena Imiolek SS HHD Class Rep Are students who get SUSI eligible for

250 reimbursement?

Megan O'Connor Yes.

- **Ents** Hugh McInerney

Took report as read. Any questions can be emailed always. Completed handover but information not useful this year. Lot of learning on the job. 4 Freshers' Weeks planned, 1 executed. All online for the first time ever. Coordinated Ents Online with other universities to host concert as part of week. Did majority of work, half a grand raised for JIGSAW. 9 or 10 events during week altogether.

Set up Trinity Talent - regular series showcasing creatives in Trinity. Drew up Sober October plans, but was postponed due to restrictions to next term, re-named Tóg go bog é.

Set up Clash of the Comics classes - running every week, competition coming soon.

Involved heavily with USI - more so than usual. Attended Congress and was elected to Campaigns Strategy Committee.

Produced several videos for the Union including "Welcome to Trinity", "My SU" and "Sober October".

Planning future events - Trinity Treats on Thursday, Countails on night of US Elections, Clash of the Comics and Mental Health week coming.

Took 2 days leave.

- **Comms & Marketing** Philly Holmes

Took report as read. Paper usage reduction of a third on SU Diaries, paper use also cut elsewhere. Some pandemic related, some by choice. More details in report.

Updated website, now much easier to update.

Sponsorship has dried up since level 3, level 5 made it worse. Looking into filling gaps with internal Trinity offers.

Writing more press releases than usual.

Sent open letter to College, College responded with regular updates on COVID.

Sending more non-weekly emails e.g. voter registration and Level 5 update.

Social channels booming, many more students reaching out over social media, good engagement sign.

New Leap Card Office opened in Temple Bar, postal service also in the works. Working hard on Gaeilge, paying off, hoping to platform it further, thanked Oifigeach for help on this.

Weekly email updated, 100% accessible, podcast version now available, Irish version has pictures.

Long term projects - SU styleguide being updated.

50% of manifesto completed, 40% in progress or ongoing, rest not possible due to COVID or other reason n.b. chatbot development - personal involvement much better.

Thanked everyone for kind words, noted hard work of UT Editor. Decision not to print UT was hard, but looking forward to seeing editions in the near future.

Grace Craig Biological and Biomedical Sciences Class Rep could we get dia duit and go raibh maith agat translated in the weekly email? had some international friends ask (sic)

Philly Holmes Will do so in the future.

- **Welfare & Equality** Leah Keogh

Took report as read. Met with Minister Simon Harris in August in relation to sexual violence and harassment at third level. Consent framework being implemented. Ran Consent classes for halls residents online.

Organise purple college for National Recovery Day.

Lot of campaigns work - Fit2Sit, late registration, Recovery Day, Mental Health Week incoming.

Heavy casework.

Motion D proposed by Megan O'Connor, Education Officer, seconded by Daniel O'Reilly, STEM Convener **A motion regarding the creation of a Constitutional Review Working Group was proposed.**

The procedural motion passed.

7. Discussion Items

Ábhair le plé

A. Schedule 3 Updates

Presented by Megan O'Connor, Education Officer Schedule 3 requires is outdated and requires updates, both to deal with the coronavirus situation and because it is just totally outdated. Have been reviewing it along with members of EC and want to let Council in on changes. The changes proposed are a reduction in the deposit for sabbatical elections, online ads permitted for this year due to coronavirus restrictions preventing in-person campaigning. Overall aim is to make running for sabbatical positions as easy as possible and there should be no financial barriers to running. Process not completed yet, will report back to Council with final schedule.

Philly Holmes, Communications & Marketing Officer Adding to what Education Officer has said, updates crucial for this year especially. There should be clauses for facilitating the Comms Officer to assist candidates with designing material - can be intimidating process and is additional barrier.

Megan O'Connor Another arising recommendation is sabbatical officers meeting all candidates running up to campaigning which is in line with what the C&M Officer stated

Daniel O'Reilly, STEM Convener All officers are mandated to give equal access to all candidates in the new schedule, removing the advantage of knowing officers in the Union to be a good candidate.

B. OC Breach Notification

Presented by Cian Walsh, Secretary to Council Introduced nature of OC. Secretary breached Article 4.3.3 a) regarding calling for submissions to Council. Submissions were not open in time as Class Rep Elections were not completed. OC recommended no action. Is a minor mistake, but all minor mistakes committed by

OC should be brought to Council as a point of principal.

Megan O'Connor, Education Officer Breach was partly their fault due to the deadlines set for Class Rep Elections.

Cian Walsh Not entirely Education Officer's fault, timeline was very tight this year.

C. Student Academic Difficulties

Presented by Carmen Keddy, SF Biology Class Representative Introduced charts based on surveys conducted of their course.

8. Motions

Rúin

A. Motion on the Irish Committee

Council Notes

That Irish is one of the recognized languages of the Union.

Council Also Notes

The need to include more students in the representation and backing of the Irish Language in the Union.

Council Resolves

To create the Coiste na Gaeilge with the attached membership and Terms of Reference in Appendix 1.

Proposed by Gretchen Nic Sheanlaoich, Oifigeach na Gaeilge

Seconded by Eoin Hand, Uachtarán an Aontais

Tugann an Chomhairle faoi deara

Go bhfuil aitheantas ag an nGaeilge mar cheann de na teangacha oifigiúla d'Aontas na Mac Léinn.

Tugann an Chomhairle faoi deara chomh maith

Go bhfuil níos mó mac léinn de dhíth ó thaobh ionadaíochta agus tacaíochta na Gaeilge faoi scáth an Aontais de.

Beartaíonn an Chomhairle

Coiste na Gaeilge a bhunú leis an mballraíocht iniata agus na Téarmaí Tagartha in Aguisín 1.

Molann: Gretchen Nic Sheanlaoich, Oifigeach na Gaeilge

Tacaíonn: Eoin Hand, Uachtarán

B. Motion on Support for International Students

Council Notes

That international students are a particularly vulnerable cohort which is now further exacerbated by the COVID19 pandemic.

Council Also Notes

That international students pay significant fees and do not qualify for grants such as SUSI or the Student Assistance Fund.

Council Regrets

That this fee is subject to a 3-5% annual increase in Trinity College student fees and this was not reexamined during the COVID19 crisis.

Council Believes

That international students require more support from the college and believe that the current lines of communication are insufficient. Regardless of EU status, every student needs additional support during the global pandemic.

Council Mandates

That the Student's Union lobbies against the annual 3-5% increase in student fees, including non-EU students.

Council Further Mandates

That the President and International Part Time Officer lobbies to ensure the adequate provision of information for international students by the college, including but not limited to the planned methods of teaching for the rest of the year and student support services available.

Council Further Mandates

That the President also lobbies to ensure that support is made readily available to students by the college on a case-by-case basis when in relation to difficulties regarding travel status to other countries, finances and Government Health guidelines where appropriate. All information should be clearly accessible to students with reference to ever-changing situations and all information should be updated accordingly.

Council Further mandates

Non-EU students are included in the movement to reduce EU student fees for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Proposed by: Rucha Benare, Julia Bochenek, Emma Hurson, Boluwaduro Kareem, Aliya Syeda, Dylan Krug, Olivia Butler, Emily Tzu Ying Yu, Lauren Vrbanic, Jane Cook

Seconded by: Patrick O'Mahony, International Officer

C. Motion on Petition to Reduce College Fees

Council Notes

That student access to campus and facilities is severely restricted due to the ongoing pandemic.

Council Also Notes

That despite these restrictions, the College fees for the year have not decreased

Council Mandates

That the union adopt a formal stance in favour of lowering College fees for this

year.

Council Further Mandates

That the President establish a petition in favour of lowering College fees.

Proposed by Dillon Broaders, SF Physical Sciences Class Representative

Seconded by Ruaidhrí Campion, SF Theoretical Physics Class Representative

D. Motion on Ethnic Minority Workshop

Council Notes

The diversity of the student population at Trinity and the Union's commitment to inclusivity for all ethnicities.

Council Mandates

That the Ethnic Minorities Officer organise an annual workshop introducing the various ethnicities in the student population of Trinity. The speakers in this workshop shall be comprised of speakers sourced from Trinity's staff student population.

Proposed by Catherine Zhou, JF French JH Class Representative

Seconded by Philly Holmes, Communications & Marketing Officer

E. Motion on Class Rep Elections Report

Council Notes

The success of the recent online class rep elections.

However Notes

That some administrative errors occurred, which should be rectified going forward.

Council Mandates

That the EC produce a report on class rep elections annually with recommendations on improvements going forward if necessary, to be presented no later than the second Council of the academic year.

Proposed by Megan O'Connor, Education Officer

Seconded by Daniel O'Reilly, STEM Convener

9. Questions

Ceisteanna

10. Any Other Business

Aon Ghnó Eile

Appendices

1. Coiste na Gaeilge Terms of Reference
 2. Welfare Committee Terms of Reference
 3. Welfare & Equality Committee Terms of Reference
 4. Diversity in STEM Terms of Reference
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